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Policy Advisory Council

June 9, 2010

Minutes

Executive Director Steve Heminger called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Members in attendance were Naomi Armenta, Cathleen Baker, Paul Branson, Richard Burnett, Carlos Castellanos, Bena Chang, Wilbert Din, Ann Hancock, Richard Hedges, Allison Hughes, Dolores Jaquez, Randi Kinman, Federico Lopez, Marshall Loring, Evelina Molina, Kendal Oku, Lori Reese-Brown, Gerald Rico, Frank Robertson, Linda Jeffery Sailors, Dolly Sandoval, and Egon Terplan. Cheryl O'Connor and Carmen Rojas were absent.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Heminger asked members to close nominations and move to electing a chair and vice chair. Ms. Grove noted that members must also decide whether to elect leaders for an interim period or the full one-year term. She added that six candidates had been nominated, including Mr. Branson, Mr. Lopez, Ms. Reese-Brown, Ms. Rojas, Ms. Sailors, and Ms. Sandoval. Ms. Busenbark moved to close the nominations, which were unanimously closed after a second by Mr. Hedges. Each candidate introduced him/herself to the group.

Mr. Heminger suggested that members vote openly and that the chair would be the person receiving the most votes and the vice chair the person with the second highest number of votes. Ms. Jaquez said that both officers should be elected separately. Ms. Busenbark also asked that officers be elected separately. Ms. Kinman expressed concern about open voting. Mr. Hedges asked that the decision be voted on by the group. Ms. Kinman moved to hold closed voting. Mr. Loring seconded the motion, and the motion was defeated with 11 nays and 9 yeas.

Mr. Branson was elected chair with 12 votes, Ms. Sandoval was elected vice chair with nine votes. Mr. Heminger ceded control of the meeting to Chair Branson.

Minutes

The minutes of the April 14, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Mr. Hedges and a second by Ms. Sailors.

The minutes of the May 12, 2010 meeting were approved after a motion by Mr. Hedges and a second by Ms. Sailors. Ms. Jaquez abstained because she was absent at the May meeting.

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Policy Advisory Council Work Plan

Mr. Terplan suggested that the topics suggested by staff be developed into a work plan that focuses on the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and the Transit Sustainability Project because they both encompass all of the topics listed by staff, and that a process on how to work on the two projects be discussed at a later meeting. Ms. Hancock asked if the SCS focuses only on future development. Mr. Heminger clarified that this is a brand new project that will include future development, but also encompass current infrastructure. Ms. Hancock expressed concern about how to make the current system better. Ms. Hughes expressed support for Mr. Terplan's suggestion. Mr. Hedges noted his concern over focusing on too broad a picture and ignoring the details. Mr. Loring noted his support for focusing on the SCS, and later decide what aspects to focus on.

Ms. Molina asked how MTC evaluates the effectiveness of its policies. Mr. Heminger noted that the regional transportation plan (RTP) is not just a bunch of words but it is also a budget. He added that MTC makes a lot of budgetary and financial decisions during the planning process, using various performance measures. He noted that focusing on the RTP will involve members in the budgetary process and how MTC evaluates projects. Ms. Busenbark expressed her support for Commissioner Halsted's comments at the May meeting. Ms. Kinman said a timeline of the various issues is necessary. Ms. Baker also noted the importance of a timeline. Ms. Armenta noted that it is important to focus and prioritize, and expressed concern about missing the boat on the issues where member input is necessary. Mr. Terplan suggested that members think about what can be the Council's best role in the SCS process. Chair Branson also noted that all issues fit into the SCS, and suggested that the Work Plan be adopted at the next meeting. He also suggested creating subcommittees and workgroups.

Funding Overview

The presentation by Alix Bockelman of MTC staff was received by the council. Mr. Hedges thanked Ms. Bockelman for her presentation. Ms. Jaquez asked where earmark money comes from. Ms. Bockelman noted that the money comes from a variety of sources, including the Highway Trust Fund, the General Fund, and the federal fuel tax. Mr. Castellanos asked how much of the different revenues coming to the region come through MTC. Ms. Bockelman said that MTC controls about \$1 billion, or 30 percent of the overall revenue that comes into the region. She noted that some programs have more discretion than others. Mr. Castellanos asked if the RTP encompasses all of the revenues or just what MTC controls, and what influence MTC has over all the funds. Ms. Bockelman noted that the RTP encompasses all revenues that come into the region. Mr. Heminger noted that local funds, which are the majority of funds, are controlled at the local level. Mr. Castellanos noted his concern over the disconnect of local policy and the regional RTP. Mr. Hedges noted that members must reach out to their communities.

Ms. Jeffrey Sailors noted that MTC's transit oriented development (TOD) policies do not often translate at the local level. Chair Branson suggested that the council should look at ways to create incentives for cities to follow MTC's TOD policy. Ms. Reese-Brown asked how often the Plan is amended between updates. Ms. Bockelman noted that the plan sets a broad vision and changes to the plan can be addressed through programming actions. Ms. Molina expressed

concern over a disconnect at the local level. Ms. Kinman suggested that an inclusionary housing policy be discussed. She also noted that all agencies in the region should be using the same definitions, and added that MTC, as the regional agency, should establish guidelines for the region. Ms. Hughes noted the importance of mixed-income TODs. She also asked what stage the TIP is in. Mr. Din noted that there are funding opportunities that local agencies can apply for that will free up other funds at the local level. Ms. Baker also asked for more information regarding the TIP. Mr. Heminger clarified that that the Commission makes the trade-offs in the Plan, not the TIP, and added that the earlier the Council gets into the debate, the more influence they can have. Mr. Terplan asked where the debate about the RTP would be most effective. Mr. Heminger noted that the argument usually lies in the expansion part of the funding. Ms. Molina asked if a project could be penalized if it is hurting the community. Mr. Heminger noted that projects do not usually have extra funds, and added that only three percent of funding is spent on expansion and some of the expansion projects actually reduce emissions.

Chair Branson recognized members of the public.

Matt Williams of the Regional Alliance for Transit (RAFT) asked members to think about how to fund transit equitably.

Chris Lepe cautioned about the unintended consequences of MTC's TOD policies.

Staff Liaison Report

The report by Ms. Grove was received by the Council.

Public Comment

Mr. Hedges urged members to oppose AB 909 (Hill). Ms. Hancock announced that she would be resigning from the Council due to a conflict of interest. Ms. Busenbark moved to keep the one-year term for the chair and vice chair. Ms. Jeffrey Sailors seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2010. The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.